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The Senate
State of Iowa
Eighty-third General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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Subcommittee:

July 29, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,


It's not news that high-speed wireless broadband is the critical infrastructure of the future because, indeed, this access brings chances for opportunities and possibilities. Conversely, of course, lack of access to this technology means limited access to opportunities, and historically, it has been the rural areas that have struggled to obtain reliable, cutting-edge communications technologies. Our rural communities, schools, businesses, and economies deserve to have equal access to the opportunities that are available in many other areas.

Rural areas tend to get a major boost from wireless broadband. For example, our farms and businesses can benefit from the ability to use the latest devices and technologies in order to grow, expand, and improve efficiencies, and our schoolchildren can benefit by gaining access to educational enrichment and other resources that are available to other children. Even though wireless broadband access is so crucial for success in our digital age, traditionally, telecommunications companies have been slow to expand into rural areas because of the lower populations and remote locations involved.

That's why this merger is such good news for Iowa: billions in private investments have been promised in order to expand the network infrastructure and make high-speed wireless broadband available to more communities of all sizes across the country. And as is often the case, this is just another example of the private sector providing solutions to problems. The best course of action is to approve this merger and allow progress via the private sector.

Thank you for your time and your service in the FCC.

Sincerely,


State Senator Jerry Behn
Iowa General Assembly, District 24

CC:
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn